

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7647

INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJ: POPLAR RIVER

REF: STATE 231309

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DELIVERED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
ON SEPTEMBER 26 TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION:

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHANCE, IN LIGHT OF THE INTEREST EXPRESSED
BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS APRIL MEETING IN THE POSSIBLE TRANS-
BOUNDARY EFFECTS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION'S
PROPOSED COAL MINING AND POWER GENERATION PROJECT ON THE EAST
POPLAR RIVER NEAR CORONACH, SASKATCHEWAN, I BELIEVE THAT IT
WOULD BE TIMELY TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE PRO-
JECT WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD.

3. "FOLLOWING ON THE FEBRUARY, 1975 EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENTS
OF CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, SASKATCHEWAN AND MONTANA MET
IN REGINA ON APRIL 15, 1975 TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND VIEWS
WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT. I AM ATTACHING A COPY OF THE AGREED
COMMUNIQUE WHICH OUTLINES THE MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THIS MEET-
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ING AND THE AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THE TWO SIDES.

4. "YOU WILL NOTE THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT A FURTHER BILATERAL MEETING WOULD BE HELD TO REVIEW THE TRANSBOUNDARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT'S POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY. THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN HELENA, MONTANA ON AUGUST 26, 1975. AN AGREED SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HELENA MEETING HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION. A MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6 IN OTTAWA TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE AIR QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL AIR POLLUTION ADVISORY BOARD HAS REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION ON THE POPLAR RIVER PROJECT'S POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY. THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE COURSE OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS.

5. "BOTH SIDES HAVE WELCOMED THE IJC DECISION INSTRUCTING ITS INTERNATIONAL SOURIS-RED RIVERS ENGINEERING BOARD TO CARRY OUT AN APPORTIONMENT STUDY OF THE WATERS IN THE POPLAR RIVER BASIN. IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WISHES TO ENCOURAGE THE COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO THE REFERENCE OF JANUARY 12, 1948, AND IN PARTICULAR, NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 THEREOF, TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO IDENTIFY EXISTING AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE POPLAR SYSTEM, AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN SAFEGUARDING USES OF WATER IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND IN ENABLING EACH COUNTRY TO MAKE SOUND WATER DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THAT AREA.

6. "AS THE COMMISSION NO DOUBT APPRECIATES, PRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT BY EARLY 1976 WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SASKATCHEWAN'S NEED TO HAVE THE DAM CLOSED IN TIME FOR THE SPRING 1976 RUN-OFF. IF NECESSARY, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE ELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE WATER APPORTIONMENT PROBLEM ON AN INTERIM BILATERAL BASIS PENDING RECEIPT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE IJC STUDY, BUT THIS IS NOT A PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION.

7 "THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE TRANSBOUNDARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT FOR WATER QUALITY IN THE POP-
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LAR RIVER BASIN. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THAT FURTHER STUDIES IN THIS AREA ARE REQUIRED. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, AGREED TO A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF WATER QUALITY DATA FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. IN THIS REGARD, WATER QUALITY DATA COLLECTED TO DATE BY SASKATCHEWAN AUGHORITIES ON BRANCHES OF THE POPLAR RIVER HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES.

8. "AT THE COMMISSION'S MEETING LAST APRIL, THE COMMISSION

AND SPOKESMEN FOR GOVERNMENTS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FURTHER INVOLVEMENT BY THE IJC IN THE AIR AND WATER QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION'S POPLAR RIVER PROJECT. IN LIGHT OF THE PRODUCTIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, THE GOVERNMENTS WISH TO RESERVE FOR THE PRESENT THE QUESTION OF A NEW REFERENCE TO THE COMMISSION ON THESE MATTERS.

9. "A COPY OF THIS LETTER IS BEING SENT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. YOURS SINCERELY, SIGNED UNDER-SECRETARY."
JOHNSON

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